

Amendment #416—To create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prohibit nondefense spending at the Department of Defense.

Defending our nation and protecting the inalienable rights of every citizen guaranteed by our Constitution are the primary responsibilities of the U.S. federal government.

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen warned “the single, biggest threat to our national security is our debt.”¹

This amendment stops spending limited taxpayer dollars on defense programs that have little to do with national security and could save billions over 10 years:

- **Non-Military Research and Development:** Research projects that have little or nothing to do with national defense or medical needs related to military service (\$6 billion).
 - Over \$1 million for the Pentagon to study European beef jerky – out of an account meant for studying new rifles and ammunition!
 - Iphone app to tell users when to drink coffee.
- **The Pentagon educates children of military families here in the United States** – at a cost of over \$50,000 per student when local school districts teach other military children for 20% of the cost of the Pentagon.
- **Alternative Energy:** Duplicative and unnecessary alternative energy research by the Department of Defense (\$700 million) on biofuels, green fuels, and Chevy Volts that steal money from training and maintenance of military soldiers and equipment.
- **Grocery Stores.** Pentagon-run grocery stores here in the United States (\$9 billion).
- **Overhead, Support, and Supply Services.** Over 300,000 military members performing civilian-type job functions and reducing the number of general officers. (\$37 billion).

¹ Marshall, Tyrone, “Debt is Biggest Threat to National Security, Chairman Says,” American Forces Press Service, September 22, 2011, <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=65432>. Accessed February 13, 2012.

The recommendations outlined in Department of Everything could save as much as \$67.9 billion or more over ten years without cutting any Army brigade combat teams, Navy combat ships, or Air Force fighter squadrons.

What could this money pay for?

- New strategic bombers for the Air Force
- Ohio-class replacement nuclear submarines for the Navy
- For the Army, robust funding for modernization or purchase of new rifles, new ammunition, and new machine guns for infantry troops.